

MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

VOLUME V.

MEXICO, AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1904.

NUMBER 47

HAPPENED and HAPPENING.

SOME LOCAL AND COUNTY NEWS IN PELLET FORM

E. G. Spence at Thompson will have a colt show Oct. 1.

Dr. Diven has moved from Benton City to Martinsburg.

C. B. Hazard is the blacksmith at Saling.

J. Zimmerman at Benton City is grinding up all the apples he can get into cider.

Rev. H. B. Rice is the new pastor of the Baptist church at Laddonia.

Miss Etta Henderson of Thompson is attending school at Albany, N. Y.

Miss Lou Douglas and Miss Una Melson of Mexico are looking after fifteen little faces in a kindergarten class.

Robert Grainge, Republican nominee for Assessor of Audrain, has bought property in Laddonia and will move to town.

Eddie and May Johnston, of near Santa Fe, will attend the Mexico schools this winter, staying with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Boatman.

Three Farber people took a trip to Oklahoma over the M., K. & T., seeing the road's reduced rates advertised in the MESSAGE.

It is the rumor, says the Leader, that Vandalia is to have a Catholic church. J. F. Coontz will donate the ground and a certain amount of money to start the ball rolling.

J. H. Vance and F. L. Bruce, two of our subscribers at Skinner, order their paper sent to Thompson. New F. R. D. service from Thompson out that way now.

Mr. E. J. Stantman, the Republican nominee for Sheriff of this county, took unto himself a wife last week, Miss Annie Vest, of Monroe county.

The Forum says that a Farber young man tried to scare his girl the other day by telling her that soda water was poison. She then expressed the wish that they both die together.

Rev. J. O. Edmonston and Mr. P. M. Morris each lost a boy last week—the boys got married. Mr. Morris consoles Bro. Edmonston that the boys have only done what they did—they once got married, too.

County Treasurer W. H. Turner attended the Mt. Pleasant Regular Baptist Association, held with Pleasant Hill church, near Cairo, recently. It was a successful trip in the interest of the Regular Baptist, published in Mexico.

That's a dangerous dough mixer—if you get mixed in it yourself—Paul Weber uses. Two boys caught in it within the last month. Homer Dempsey is the latest victim. The inside of one hand was torn away and one or two fingers badly used up.

Miss Juliette Clyde Park of Danville, Ky., is one of the instructors in the Missouri Military Academy.

D. H. Athey, the Farber contractor, is building a fine cottage for T. E. Hesse of that town. It is in the new Shotwell addition lately added to Farber.

The Kansas City Star remarks that Rolla West, who lives near Middletown, doesn't believe in killing horses and mules when they break their legs. A mule owned by him broke both bones in one leg recently and West had them set. The mule, at last accounts, was getting along nicely.

E. W. Johnson lives at a town in Iowa called Watcher but he owns a farm near Farber, this county. He has perhaps never realized what cheer it is to reside among Audrain people or perhaps he might move here and live on that farm.

The Moberly Democrat prints this item: P. H. Cullen, one of Mexico's best attorneys, is in the city to-day attending to some important cases in the circuit court. Mr. Cullen was attorney in the Jester case a few years ago and generally has one side or the other in all litigation in his own county.

Burlington officials, with Henry Miller of St. Louis general superintendent, came to Mexico last week and in a special car made an inspection of the new cut-off railroad from here to Old Monroe. They expressed complete satisfaction with the road and announced that passenger traffic will be instituted over the new line Oct. 2.

Eld. W. P. Matheny of South Carolina is in Mexico and has placed his daughter, Miss Ella May, in our public school. Bro. Matheny will take editorial charge of the Regular Baptist published here, which is the church organ of that denomination in the United States and Canada. He will do no regular preaching, but will travel in the interest of the paper.

J. N. Harrison and wife and son of Hannibal left last week with Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Morris of Mexico to spend the winter in California. Mr. Harrison is a brother of Ed Harrison, the brick man of Mexico. The former at one time resided in Mexico. He helped burn the brick in the Mexico court house and the brick also out of which the Ringo Hotel was built.

The Moberly Democrat said last week: "George Robertson, one of the very best lawyers in Missouri, is trying a case in the circuit court to-day against the C. & A. railway company. His client is Fannie Cahill, who is suing the company for damages for the killing of her husband. The defendant is represented by W. H. Scarritt and the case is being closely contested." The MESSAGE adds that A. C. Whitson of Mexico was also assistant to Mr. Robertson in the above case. Messrs. Robertson and Whitson came away as winners in the case, too, a verdict for \$5,000 for their client.

WATSON TALKS.

Admits He Met That Denver Woman in St. Louis.

A great many people in Audrain county will be interested in the following taken from the Hannibal Courier-Post:

Dr. Jones Watson, who is under arrest at New London charged with the murder of his wife, is out with a version of his trip to St. Louis immediately following the death of his wife and his subsequent meeting with Miss Ada M. Burks, the Denver milliner, at the Inside Inn on his arrival at the Fair where he is alleged to have spent several days with the woman.

Sphinx-like, the doctor has positively refused to talk of the case in any phase as his attorneys have impressed him with the fact that they do not want to try their case in the newspapers. An intimate friend of the doctor, living in the South, went to New London from Hannibal this week, however, and visited the prisoner in his jail apartments. The doctor talked freely of the case to this gentleman, as it was the first meeting of the two in several years and Dr. Watson appeared anxious to place his side of the story of the death of his wife before his friend in his own light.

In the course of his conversation Dr. Watson unwittingly outlined his defense along certain points, especially those pertaining to his sudden trip to St. Louis following his wife's death, and his associations with Miss Burks, of Denver. His story is looked on with some importance by the attorneys for the prosecution.

Dr. Watson now gives as his reason for going to St. Louis so soon after his wife's death that he wanted to avoid publicity. He stated that everywhere he went people questioned him regarding the death of Mrs. Watson and always wanted him to go into details. This, he claims, was a most unpleasant feature for him, as he considered the parties suspicious of him, altho they had never intimated such a thing, so he went to St. Louis.

Going to the Inside Inn, the doctor declares that his meeting with Miss Burks, the Denver milliner, was a coincidence. He asserts that when he walked up to the big office to affix his signature to the hotel register, he encountered Miss Burks. After he registered he says that Miss Burks asked him about the accident and that when he asked her to sit down with him in order that he might give her a detailed statement of the runaway she said that she would first get her mail, so he inquired for her at the postoffice window. This is how he accounts for the statements of the postoffice clerk at the Inside Inn testifying at the coroner's inquest that the doctor called for the woman's mail. The doctor has not stated, however, how it was that Miss Burks called for his mail during his stay at the hotel.

Dr. Watson told his friend in the course of the conversation in jail that Miss Burks was a particular friend of himself and his wife and that when she took her departure from St. Louis to Arendia, Mo., to visit her brother, he naturally accompanied her to the station, as she was not familiar with St. Louis and the methods in vogue at the Union Station.

The acknowledgement of Dr. Watson that he was with Miss Burks in St. Louis, shows that no attempt will be made by the defense at the murder trial to deny the fact that the doctor was with the woman in St. Louis, but an effort will be made to explain his associations with her at the Fair.

The doctor has already given several reasons for his sudden trip to St. Louis following his wife's death. When a reporter of the Courier-Post met him at the station in Hannibal on the day he passed thru here, he said that his back had been injured in the runaway and that he was going down to the city while the convention of osteopaths was in session so that he might obtain the benefit of their treatment. To his brother-in-law, Judge McElhinney, of Clayton, the doctor said that one leg was shorter than the other, this constituting the extent of his injury.

It is announced that the first intention of the attorneys for Dr. Watson to institute habeas corpus proceedings for the release of the doctor have been abandoned and that no further steps will be taken to have the doctor released until the murder trial is held. This came as a surprise, as it was supposed that habeas corpus proceedings would be filed shortly.

Attorneys for the doctor are still in active correspondence, however, with the insurance companies, seeking to collect the insurance carried on the life of Mrs. Watson. It seems to be the general impression that no insurance will be paid by the companies until the murder trial is finally disposed of.

DR. WATSON'S CANADIAN VISIT.

The visit of Dr. Watson, a brother-in-law of Dr. Watson, to Canada, is looked upon with some significance by the prosecution, especially in view of the fact that Miss Burks, the Denver milliner, is in that country or in Detroit, Mich., a bordering city of the United States. The impression prevails that Miss Burks is eluding the detectives in the case. There seems to be but little doubt, however, that they will succeed in locating her at the proper time.

The Denver Post prints the following story in regard to the Watson case:

"Did Dr. Taylor Jones Watson plan to flee the country with Miss Ada M. Burks, the Denver milliner, with whom he seemed to be infatuated, and were his plans cut short by his arrest?"

"Detectives working on the case in this city claim to have such proof. According to them Dr. Watson and Miss Burks were to have eloped as soon as he could settle with the insurance companies."

When Dr. Watson put Miss Burks on board a train in the Union depot in St. Louis, the detectives say that it was with the understanding that she was to proceed to Detroit, where he was to join her. When he could have collected the insurance they were to have fled to Canada. Unfortunately for Dr. Watson, the father of his wife, Capt. John J. Sater, was apprised of the plans by the detectives. It was this that led him to order an inquest and swear out a warrant charging him with the murder of Mrs. Watson.

"The information that led to Dr. Watson's undoing is said to have been furnished to the detectives by Mrs. E. B. James, a seamstress living at 639 East Seventeenth avenue, Denver. Mrs. James did considerable sewing for Miss Burks."

"From what the detectives learned Miss Burks opened the conversation by remarking that she would soon leave Denver for good."

"That is what you are having these magnificent gowns made for?" asked Mrs. James.

"Yes, I am going to get married," answered the milliner.

"Not to Dr. Watson?"

"Oh, no. He is married," slowly replied the milliner, blushing. "You know I have a sweetheart in Cleveland. I am going to marry him."

"Mrs. James paused. She knew Miss Burks and with it had a knowledge of the attentions Dr. Watson paid her."

"I am afraid that story will not hold water," finally said Mrs. James. "I am afraid the doctor will not let you get married to your sweetheart."

"Miss Burks' face turned crimson. She was clearly embarrassed and failed to find words to express her emotion. Finally she said: 'Well, you have been a good friend to me, and I will take you into my confidence.'"

"It was then that Miss Burks is said to have told the story of the alleged plans of Dr. Watson to elope with her."

"This testimony is considered of the most vital importance by the detectives, and Mrs. James will be subpoenaed at the trial. Thru her testimony the prosecution hopes to establish the relations between Dr. Watson and Miss Burks, and endeavor to prove that Mrs. Watson's removal was the result of them."

SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

ROLLS COUNTY.

The Republican central committee has seven negro members.

James O. Maddox, charged with the murder of Dick Moss, died last week in jail.

Charles T. Weaver sold a mule colt to G. E. Brice of Elk Lick for \$100.

Mrs. Annie Waters, near New London, will celebrate her 99th birthday this fall. She is hale and hearty and never took a dose of medicine in her life.

A Hannibal man says that the corn stalks have grown so high on his old farm in Ralls that the squirrels have left the timber and gone to the cornfields, the stalks being taller and thicker than the timber.

Wm. Rich, near New London, was driving a corn harvester and two dogs ran out of the corn and scared his team so that it ran away, dragging the machine over him. The muscles and ligaments of one arm were torn loose and he was otherwise seriously bruised.

Freeman Davis in the St. Louis Rural World has the following:

Quite a number of Ralls county's inhabitants are walking around with their hands on their hips trying in vain to regain the perpendicular position which nature intended them to assume. An enterprising pickle company is responsible for this affair. They established a pickling station at our town and canvassed the county far and wide making contracts for cucumbers. As a result nearly every farmer has from one to three acres of pickle cucumbers planted out and picking them is now the main business of the day. Instead of the customary "Howdy," the usual salutation between farmers is, "How are your pickles?" I have planted something less than an acre; we pick them every other day. The last two pickings made 17 bushels. They sell for 45 cents per bushel for small and 15 cents for large.

King Corn and Jack Frost are running a close race. All corn planted in reasonable time bids fair to make sound corn. Some of the later corn, unless the season is unusually favorable, will be killed by frost. Wheat was very poor; oats medium; hay good; pastures fairly so.

The spring crop of pigs was

light, but there are quite a number of last fall pigs held over to feed this fall. Cattle are a drag; several loads from here were shipped to market and sent back.

Year by year the farmers here are learning the value of their barn yard manure, but commercial fertilizers are almost unknown. I was raised in east central Illinois, on a farm in a rich agricultural community, and outside of a little drilling with wheat, I have never seen a pound of artificial fertilizer. But the farmers are thinking and reading, and I have faith that in time they will lift themselves out of the rut and keep abreast of the times.

MONROE COUNTY.

W. W. Crabtree, near Florida, died after an operation for appendicitis.

The Appeal says that a battle royal was fought to the death by two stallions at Weldon Ragsdale's barn in Washington township recently. In one compartment was the famous old Legrand, formerly owned by Fonrose Keith. Some distance away was a big draft stallion. The latter, tho haltered, made a game fight but was finally killed by his ponderous assailant.

McNeir, the Ash liquor dealer, who skipped the country when indicted by the grand jury, was arrested in Randolph county and brought back to the Paris jail.

The Wabash railroad suffered a \$60,000 loss in the wreck one night last week at Paris. One fast train ran into the rear of another that was taking water at the tank. The collision was on a long bridge half a mile out of town and five cars of merchandise were burned. Fire consumed two spans of the bridge and burned a locomotive and toppled it off over thirty feet to the ground below. Fifty yards of track was also destroyed. The local fire department was called out, but refused to fight the fire. A large tank of gasoline was in the train. The car containing the tank was hauled out of the flames by the wrecking train. No lives were lost.

BOONE COUNTY.

Mrs. M. T. Cook sold Emmett Fenton a calf for \$20.

Ode Tucker, a negro about 16 years old, was killed near Ashland by a vicious mule, when he was thrown, and, becoming entangled in the harness, was kicked to death.

At Columbia Wm. Hill, a white boy, and a negro named Johnson quarreled over a worthless yellow dog and the negro shot Hill in the leg.

E. S. Palmer of Columbia has the lockjaw as the result of a wound inflicted in his foot by a rusty nail.

The Centralia Fair Association has advertised the fair grounds and all paraphernalia for sale at public auction. The proceeds will be used in buying a new site and erecting new buildings for a fair to be held next year, the present site to be sold for town lots. The recent fair was a financial success, all premiums being paid and a surplus in the treasury.

CALLAWAY COUNTY.

Joe Coons bought a herd of 59 mules at Fort Scott, Kansas, and will feed them on his farm this winter.

Hon. David A. DeArmond will speak in Fulton Oct. 3, stock sales day.

Rev. A. Mueller is the new pastor of the German Evangelical church at Fulton.

The coroner's jury in St. Louis gave a verdict that the McPheeters accident and death was thru the carelessness of the street car

company. The motorman and conductor of the car were dismissed from the service of the company. Mr. McPheeters was brought home and buried at Concord.

Vest Wilkerson and Willard Shryock visited the World's Fair. When the tired sightseers retired the first night they put their pants and money under their pillows. While they snored a nocturnal marauder carried away \$20 from each boy's pocket. The young men enjoyed the fair but they don't like thieves.

PIKE COUNTY.

Revival at Indian Creek church resulted in 22 conversions.

J. H. Crossman at Eolia lost his right eye in blasting rock.

The Socialists have nominated a partial county ticket. James W. Bannister is the candidate for Representative, and John W. Angle candidate for County Attorney.

The Pike Co. News tells this remarkable incident, that some parties were visiting at James Doyles, near Ashley last Sunday, and their horse was taken sick and it was thought had died. The supposed dead horse was dragged out of the barn lot and over some plowed ground, but afterwards it recovered and went back home of its own accord.

Jacob Oyler while at work on a scaffolding on the Walker place near Turpin stepped on the end of a loose plank and fell seven feet, striking his stomach on a beam which dislodged a heavy window frame which fell striking him a blow on the back of the neck. He died from his injuries in a few hours.

LITTLEBY.

(Too late for last issue.)

Misses Grace Joiner and Sara Grist returned for their homes in Wisconsin last week after visiting Miss Joiner's sister, Mrs. D. L. Rodgers.

Penrose Weidler and wife of St. Paul are visiting the family of his brother, A. B. Weidler.

Rev. Chinn preached at Rock Hill Sunday morning and afternoon. One accession to the church by letter at each service.

Miss Adah Fairchild and brother were sight seeing at the Fair last week.

Mrs. Rooker and children of Madison visited Mrs. J. R. Snook over Sunday.

Miss Mary Telkemper of near Auxvasse is visiting relatives in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. John Yohe have returned to their home in Pennsylvania after a pleasant visit to Mrs. Yohe's sisters and other relatives here. It was their first visit west and they were very favorably impressed with the country.

Hedge Dale school opened Monday with thirty scholars. Miss Gertrude Dunkin teacher.

Rev. Sitton is the new pastor at Littleby.

The Weidler families visited Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sipple in Laddonia Tuesday.

A Kansas farmer came to the pastor of his congregation the other day and asked that his name be taken off the church book. "What is the trouble, Brother Jones?" asked the surprised pastor. "I supposed you were a faithful follower of the Lamb." "That's what I, sorter supposed myself, but there ain't no use talkin', a man can't serve the Lord and milk four cows in the time. After the first heavy frost I'll try this church business again, but just now I either have to sell the cows, give up the church or be a durned hypocrite."